

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077315

60

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 OPR-02 /059 R

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EA/VN:LPETERS

AID/TRC:TPIERCE (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT

SUBJECT:SAIGON RIVER SECURITY

REF: SAIGON 4228

1. DEPARTMENT AND AID CONFERRING WITH AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES (APL) OFFICIALS ON PROBLEM RAISED REFTEL. IT APPEARS THE PRIMARY REASONS APL HAS TEMPORARILY CANCELLED SERVICE TO SAIGON ARE FEAR FOR SAFETY OF CREWS AND PASSENGERS; FEAR THAT VESSELS WILL BE LOST OR TRAPPED IN SAIGON RIVER, AND THE FACT THAT COMMERCIAL HULL WAR RISK INSURANCE HAS BEEN RAISED TO 3 1/2 PERCENT OF HULL VALUE FOR 7-DAY COVERAGE. APL INFORMS DEPT THAT THEIR CORPORATE DECISION BASED ON OTHER FACTORS (UNSPECIFIED TO DEPT) AS WELL. DEPT-OFF REQUESTED APL TO RECONSIDER DECISION. APL IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH THEIR SAIGON REP.

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PAGE 02 STATE 077315

2. DEPARTMENT APPROACHING APL AND OTHER AMERICAN SHIPPING

LINES TO INFORM THEM OF PRESENT SAIGON RIVER AND PORT
SITUATION PER REFTEL. DEPARTMENT ASSURING THE LINES THAT
WE WILL INFORM THEM IMMEDIATELY IF SITUATION SHOULD
DETERIORATE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY SAIGON REQUESTED TO NOTIFY
DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY IF SECURITY SITUATION ON SAIGON RIVER

OR IN SAIGON PORT SHOULD DETERIORATE IN ANY WAY. EMBASSY
ADDITIONALLY REQUESTED PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH RADIO
FREQUENCIES OR ANY OTHER SUGGESTED MEANS MERCHANT VESSELS
MAY USE JUST PRIOR TO ENTERING SAIGON RIVER TO GET UPDATE

ONRIVER SECURITY SITUATION.

4. DEPT. TO CONTINUE REQUESTING APL AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL
TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION. INGERSOLL

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